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4 March 1955

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

I. Authority

The Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications was established in pursuance of paragraph 5 of NSCID-16 (7 March 53) to assist the Director of Central Intelligence in the implementation of that Directive. The Committee is composed of representatives of the IAC agencies and can invite other interested agencies to sit with it on matters which concern them. Chairmanship is provided by CIA.

II. Organization

Three subcommittees have been established which comprehend in general the responsibilities separately identified in the Directive and which are listed below.

III. Responsibilities, Accomplishments and Objectives

A. PROCUREMENT

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision.

2. Projects Completed

a. The Domestic Collection of Foreign Publications was reviewed. The findings led to the conclusion that coordination of the domestic collectors for State, G-2 and CIA was not practical.

b. The Collection Requirements of more than 20 Agencies are now coordinated in Foreign Branch/CIA Library as a service of common concern.

c. Field Coordination has been improved at several posts, e.g. a Document Procurement Committee has been established in Tokyo.

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d. Chapter 943 of the Foreign Service Manual (Publications Procurement) was drafted by the Procurement Subcommittee and submitted to State.

e. A Comprehensive Report on Publications Procurement in London was prepared by the former Publications Procurement officer and circulated by the Committee. (This post may be restored in FY 1956.)

f. Publications Procurement in the Far East was examined in the field by the Chairman of the Procurement Subcommittee. The report to the Advisory Committee is now under consideration.

3. Projects Planned

a. A union list of USSR serial publications will be completed. Collection guides based on the list will be prepared.

b. Procurement facilities in the field will continue to be reviewed, improvements recommended, and facilities expanded as possible.

c. The coordination of requirements in Washington and collection in the field will continue.

B. EXPLOITATION

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the preparation and dissemination of English-language excerpts, summaries, abstracts and compilations from foreign language publications.

2. Projects Completed

a. Systematic and detailed surveys of foreign language publications from the following areas of the world were completed.

1. China
2. World-wide scientific and technical publications
3. Eastern European Satellites
4. Southeast Asia
5. Near East
6. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Africa

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2. Projects Completed (continued)

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7. Western and Northern Europe

9. Latin America

The surveys encompassed:

10. the detailed examination of the continuing needs of the various agencies for information in the areas;
11. existing governmental and non-governmental facilities for exploitation of the publications and their capacity to satisfy any of the stated needs of the various agencies; and
12. source material available including a determination of that currently exploited which should be dropped and that not exploited which should be covered.

b. The work of abstracting 54 scientific and technical periodicals has been divided among the Air Intelligence Division/USAF, the Air Technical Intelligence Center/USAF, and the Foreign Documents Division/CIA.

3. Projects Planned

a. One area program will be reviewed each month for necessary adjustments in coverage, format and/or periodicity. Thus, each report will be reviewed every six months.

b. Continual effort will be maintained to determine gaps in coverage of foreign language materials, and recommendations will be submitted for the alleviation of the identified gaps within present capabilities or augmented facilities.

C. REFERENCE

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the development and maintenance of indicies, accession lists, and references services regarding foreign language publications.

2. Projects Completed

a. The Cyrillic Union Subject catalog in the CIA Library was established as the central record of monographs of Soviet literature available to IAC Agencies. Regular contributions are made by all member agencies.

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2. Projects Completed (continued)

b. The CIA Library is receiving 50-60 attache reports with single copy enclosures per week for indexing and microfilming from G-2. State is contributing microfilm copies of selected enclosures to the collection.

c. The Captured Document Collections were reviewed by the members as staff study as to the desirability of returning the collections to their respective countries. A complete report will be submitted to the IAC.

3. Projects Planned

The program of examination of the bibliographic services of the member agencies will be continued. Emphasis will be placed on the production and use of research aids, the coordination of reference and loan services and upon cooperative indexing measures which will improve the recoverability of intelligence source materials.

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Chairman